(b) Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) has been defaulting in repayment of principal amount as well as interest on term loan extended to it by State Bank of India (SBI). Besides, HSL has also not been able to repay Government loans as also interest accrued thereon due to its critical financial position. Taking overall view of the financial position of HSL, a Core Committee was constituted on 8.8.2001 to go into the issues connected with the viability of the yard as well as its restructuring. The said Committee carried out study of the yard and submitted its Report on 29.11.2001.

The Core Committee has, *inter alia*, recommended/assessed requirement of funds for cleansing up the balance sheet of HSL, increase in turnover in ship repairs by utilizing the building dock extensively for ship repair and retrofit of naval crafts, taking up orders mostly of small crafts and steel structures, up-gradation of technology and human skills, reduction in sub-contracting work and also adopting good practices followed by other Shipyards to the extent applicable to improve the efficiency, productivity and competitiveness.

(c) Steps initiated by HSL for the implementation of the recommendations of the Core Committee include taking up orders for small crafts and steel structures, reduction in sub-contracting work, reduction in excessive manpower through Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS), phasing out of unviable activities by closing down certain Departments like transport, canteen, hospital, guest house, blacksmith, sheet metal, painting etc. and re-training and re-deployment of workers of those Departments in other trades. Government has also been releasing funds for implementation of VRS as also for renewals/replacement/up-gradation of technology in each financial year.

Technical and Price Bids Submitted by HSL against SCI Global Tender

1306. SHRI N. R. DASARI:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hindustan Shipyard Ltd. (HSL) had submitted Technical and Price Bids in 1996 against Shipping Corporation of India's global tender for four 19,000 DWT container-cum-Cargo vessels;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government will prevail upon the Shipping Corporation of India to place these orders on HSL, Visakhapatnam which is passing through severe financial crisis due to lack of orders?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI VEDPRAKASH GOYAL): (a) Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) had submitted Technical Bid against Shipping Corporation of India (SCI)'s global tender for acquisition of 2 firm plus option 1+1 multipurpose cargo vessels of about 19,000 DWT each in October, 1997.

(b) SCI had floated global tender through advertisements on 08.09.1997 for acquisition of 2 firm plus option 1+1 multipurpose cargo vessels of about 19,000 DWT each. This acquisition proposal was a part of SCI's acquisition plan for 9th Five Year Plan. The last date for submission of Technical Bid was 21.10.97. Out of 12 parties who had collected the tender document, 8 parties including HSL submitted Technical Bid. SCI, however, did not invite the Commercial Bid for vessels due to change in its priorities at that time. Since then, SCI has not floated any other tender for acquisition of vessels of similar categories.

(c) Due to the changing pattern of liner shipping, which is shifting towards movement of cargo in containers, SCI do not intend to acquire multipurpose regarding R&D and Conducting Studies, Rs. 1 crore provision for the 10th Five Year Plan has been allocated.

While formulating the policies of the Government on Shipbuilding and Ship repair, the recommendations of the Working Group are always considered.

Schemes for the welfare of destitute children

1308. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the various schemes for the welfare of destitute children in each State that are being implemented for the past five years and are under various stages of implementation; and